# LATE NEWS FROM THE WRITING AND PUBLISHING WORLD

### A PRIMA DONNA WHO GREW UP IN COLORADO

Miss Cather's Realistic Story of Natural People Carries the Heroine Through Many Environments. Ancient Babylon-Civil War Adventures-English Ancestral Homes of Americans - a Girondist Leader.

Willa Sibert Cather's story of "The ! tion. Katie was the head dining room Song of the Lark" (Houghton Mifflin girl in & hotel at Winslow in Ari-Company) is an excellent piece of realistic story telling. Here we have the life of a Colorado town, and for the A great muddle resulted. central character a child who grows up to be a famous opera singer. All the people are naturally and simply displayed, and it is remarkable how interesting everything is made to be. The busy and thoughtful doctor taking the whiskey and bitters from the closet and thinking to refresh himself But it really looks that way, with a well merited cocktail awakens a definite interest. The reader follows She can hold the freight from Albuquerq' his actions with sympathy and hopes cordially that his reasonable purpose will be achieved; the disappointment Just to see if things was pleasing Katte is sharp when the Swedish pastor enters and calls him away, and when the

Then, the pastor's little daughter, has pneumonia and gets over it in a fashion cheerful as well as truthful. Her
was York, grandly perfected and triumphant. But we liked the tale best old people who had seen the fight and bibulous German music teacher, the big and generous doctor, the doctor's atrophied and stingy wife, the several figures resident in the Mexican quarantly and inevitably interesting and never extravagant. The music teacher's spell of acute alcoholism, when he

zona. She was unjustly discharged switchmen thereabout went on strike trains from East and West piled up at superintendent telegraphed from California ordering Katie's reinstatement We liked the song that celebrated this triumph. In part it ran:

owned the Santa Fe?

to Needles any day;
The division superintendent, he come home

Casey. Poor Kennedy was killed in a collision. He had meant to marry Thea

kindly ingredients abstracted from the closet, and not yet mixed, need to be him an hour before he died. We put back again to await a happier marked a passage here. Thea "saw in his wet eyes her own face, very small but much prettier than the cracked glass at home had ever shown it. It The picturing is done with admirable glass at home had ever shown it. It enderstanding; simply; with no la- was the first time she had seen her bored and blemishing irrelevancies. face in that kindest mirror a woman can ever find."

Thea came to be a great prima when she was in Colorado.

#### HISTORICAL.

History based almost entirely or ter, Ray Kennedy, the freight train archeological remains is pretty conconductor, who was furthermore a jectural and is liable to change with burg. Chickamauga. Atlanta and graph will be of great assistance to studious young man and a good anti- the discovery of new material. Leon- plenty more. At nearly every place quary—these characters are abund- ard W. King's "A History of Babylonia" (Frederick A. Stokes Company), the while they may not be of much technicompanion volume to his history of cal importance, are full of human interest. We like his notes on the preschops down the pole that supports the Assyria, is built upon monuments ent dove house, is remarkably well de- which have only come to light within scribed, and so is the outing enjoyed seventy years and on inscriptions and son. It presents a new view not merely by Thea and her mother when they languages that have only been made of the civil war, but of all warfare. o to Denver in Kennedy's caboose.

What an excellent anecdote is that

It puts before the reader the concluHollingsworth Wharton made a pilconcerning Katle Casey, which is in- sions to which scholars have come cluded in the narrative of this expedia about these earliest records of civil-

#### THE SOLDIER

By RUPERT BROOKE.

FI should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field That is forever England. There shall be In that rich earth, a richer dust concealed A dust schom England bore, shaped, made aware.

Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam A body of England's, breathing English air, Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think this heart, all cril shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given; Her sights and sounds; dreams, happy as her day; And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,

In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

academic scholarship.

-From "Collected Poems" (Lane)

A much more superficial and more

readable account of the same period

writers, whatever the public may

the evil that had come from his noble

figure in the Revolution drama,

warning against the good intentions

ways interesting, however often re-

peated, and is not spoiled by the au-

OTHER BOOKS.

Believing that the greatest problem

in construction in the churches of the

Prof. Clarence Ward of Rutgers Col-

lege studies that problem in "Mediæva

Church Vaulting" (Princton University Press, Princeton, N. J.) with great

thoroughness. He has examined the vaulting of churches of all styles,

chiefly in France and England, where

architects and students of art. It has

A collector of memorials of Abraham

Lincoln, which are preserved in the

house in Washington in which he died, Osborn H. Oldroyd, has gathered

together a great mass of poetry of

varying merit that has been written about Lincoln in "The Poets' Lincoln'

(The editor, Washington). The ar-rangement of the pieces is, as near as

the sale of the volume go toward the

Another Lincoln memorial is the

other version.

The story of the childheod of eleven

lated by Maude Morrison Frank in

author's independent tone and straight-forward style add to the interest in

mor. It seems rather hopeless to try

to teach by books the kind of teacher

that the story hour may be dreaded by

children on whom it is imposed. A

great many examples of stories that

may be told are given and at the end

Books Received.

McNally and Company, Chicago.)
"Sadie Love." Avery Hopwood. (John

"True Ghost Stories." Hereward Car-

is a bibliography of story books.

many illustrations of great beauty.

thor's fanciful subdivisions.

of the incompetent. The story is al-

ideas, Desmoulins is a most tragic

ized man, many of which are likely excellent and creditable example of Winslow until the yards there looked to hold permanently while many others like a log jam. Finally the division may be modified or amplified by the results of later excavations. Most interesting is the account of the way in is Violet Methly's "Camille Desmou-which the chronology has been ar-lins" (E. P. Dutton and Company), an ranged. The history is continuous, impressionistic biography of a type full out of proportion, it may be, as that seems popular among British all histories are, for the periods where the records are more abundant, tell- think of it. With his theatrical sening the story of the city and of the timentality and his consciousness of empire in the Euphrates valley from the beginning to the time of Alexander's conquest. The chapter on the Persian Kings is especially useful because it links the history derived from the monuments with that transmitted by books. The book is copiously illustrated and should help greatly in

making this extremely interesting history known to the general public An extremely interesting book has been compiled by Clifton Johnson in pany) by a method so simple and ob- Middle Ages was that of the vaulting vious that it seems strange nobody should have tried it before. Fifty years after the war Mr. Johnson untook down their stories just as they told them. These he has put together in his book; they range from Harper's the builders sought to substitute stone Ferry and Bull Run to Antietam, for wood as a protection against fire, a Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Cold Har-bor, the Wilderness, Cedar Creek and in the Western field, Shiloh, Vicks-struction were applied. The monohe secured several narratives, which, condition of the narrators. The book is illustrated by Rodney Thom-

grimage to several places connected can be, in the sequence of the events with American history and records in Lincoln's life and is prefaced by her visits, together with a good deal verses written by Lincoln himself. The of historical information that she ac- illustrations are numerous; they comcumulated, in "English Ancestral prise many interesting portraits, rep-Homes of Noted Americans" (J. B. resentations of statues and many Lippincott Company). She naturally ments and pictures of relics of the looked up the places of origin of distinguished Philadelphians, Ecton, from which the Franklins came, and Pens- maintenance of the Lincoln museum. turst, with other spots associated with William Penn. She visited also the separately printed lecture he delivered, Washington villages, Sulgrave and "Discoveries and Inventions," Bringtons, and the homes of the Pil-Abraham Lincoln (John Howell, San grims, Scrooby and Austerfield, as Francisco). One version of this lecture is printed in Nicolay and Hay's antiquarians have connected with the early colonists. She digresses into many historical details that are hardly relevant. The book is illustrated. What she tells is pretty well touch does not add to its interest for English nineteenth century writers, the reader, but it is all pleasant eight men and three women, is re-

enough reading. A conscientious study of a Girondist Holt and Company). They are Scott, ader in the French Revolution, who Lamb, Thackeray, Dickens, Tennyson. also travelled in the United States and wrote about what he saw, has been made by Eloise Ellery, Ph. D., in "Brissot de Warville" (Houghton Mifflin Company), one of the volumes Mifflin Company), one of the volumes published to commemorate the Vassar semi-centennial. The author has evious their childhood was as colordently read all of Brissot's writings, less as that of most of us and the rington, for she gives summaries of their con- author cannot make it of particular pany, Net Joffre tents; for this she is to be com- interest.
miserated. It is a book to be conand of his party. The Girondists and He illustrates them with artistic

telligence. So read, it will ways of the fur trade, the manner in Sh reward the "gentle reader" which pelts are judged and graded and other matters which will interwith more genuine, lasting est the general public as well as the pleasure than the average "fiction hunter and trader is to be found in devourer" can possibly get out of the A. R. Harding's "Fur Buyers' Guide" quick thrills from "best sellers." (A. R. Harding, Columbus, Ohio). The Chicago Examiner.



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(Appletons.)

(Appletons.)

(Appletons.)

(Appletons.) has of his party. The Girondists and Brissot with them, with their half baked schemes for reforms and their asseverations of high purpose, have received more sympathy than is their due, chiefly on account of their execution while they were very young, which prevented them from showing what they could do, when equally young contemporaries lived to accomplish great things. The book is an Astory to be read slowly and withintelligence. So read, it will satisfy the requirements of the majority of travellers, the most interesting articles in the little volume of tributes to "Morgan Robertson, the Man" (Metropolitian Magizine, New York) are the autoblographical ones by Robertson himself. Several of his friends tell good stories about him in their appreciations. The volume edition of Robertson's books, which is published for the benefit of his widow.

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onstance of the control of the contr his book. He describes the fur of every American animal from bear to weasel and domestic cats.

Telling stories to children is one of the many ramifications of modern pedagogy. In "The Art of the Story Teller" (Appletons), Marie L. Shedlock instructs would-be teachers, with some solemnity and little sense of humor. It seems rather hopeless to try

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